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On 5-State Swing

Romney Attacks CIA, Johnson Viet Policies

By David S. Broder
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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — Gov. George Romney (R-Mich.) opened a five-state campaign swing through the West Saturday with a slashing attack on the Johnson Administration's handling of the Vietnam war and the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) subsidy to the National Student Assn. (NSA).

The prospective 1968 presidential candidate called the administration's Vietnam policy "clumsy, ill-timed and poorly coordinated." He said the CIA's subsidy of the NSA "smacks of secret government within our society."



Alaska was the first stop on a tour that will carry Romney into Utah, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona next week—the longest trip of his pre-presidential campaign.

At a press conference in Anchorage, the governor responded willingly to a question on Vietnam.

Mr. Romney "It was a mistake to get involved in a land war," he said, "but since we're there, we have to see it through honorably." He said he was "prayerful" that the President's sincere efforts for peace would succeed, but complained that the Johnson policy has been "clumsy, ill-timed and poorly coordinated."

In discussing the CIA-NSA situation, the governor said he was not blaming either group for offering or accepting financial aid. "The situation needed attention," he said. "The people of the world had been led to believe that the leftist youth that had been attending the World Youth Conference spoke for the United States. There was need for some students there who would tell our story."

"The real need was for national leadership that would inspire private support for private groups like these students." If such private support were forthcoming, he added, there would have been no need for a CIA subsidy.